

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 597

By Lowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jeff Harmon on his distinguished service to the State of Tennessee as the District Public Defender for the 12th Judicial District on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Harmon is one such estimable person, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, elected to his first term in September 2012, having first been appointed in January 2011, Jeff Harmon served with distinction as District Public Defender for the 12th Judicial District for more than a decade before taking his much-deserved retirement on August 30, 2022, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harmon previously served as Assistant Public Defender from October 1992 to January 2011, in which capacity he handled cases in three of the district's six counties; and

WHEREAS, born on September 2, 1962, Jeff Harmon graduated from Sequatchie County High School in 1979; he received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1983, graduated from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School Of Law in 1986, and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in October 1986; and

WHEREAS, prior to becoming a district public defender, Mr. Harmon served as an attorney in the law office of Greer & Smith from October 1986 to September 1992; and

WHEREAS, a respected leader in his field, Mr. Harmon has held leadership roles in the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference and is a City of Dunlap Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, he is also devoted to serving his community as a member of the Dunlap Lions Club and through his involvement with a local food pantry; and

WHEREAS, although now retired, Mr. Harmon remains involved in the practice of law as a judicial magistrate in Sequatchie County and a City Court Judge in South Pittsburg, and he also accepts court-appointed cases; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Harmon is a classic rock music fan and enjoys attending concerts with his wife in his free time; a trivia expert, he holds the distinction of being a two-day winner on the television show *Jeopardy* in 2007; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Harmon is most grateful for the love of his wife of thirty-six years, Kim Belleque Harmon, and their adult children, Katherine "Katie," Margaret "Maggie," and Benjamin "Ben"; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Harmon exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Harmon demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the bar and bench and his community alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Jeff Harmon on his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as the District Public Defender for the 12th Judicial District and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.